Centenary College

—and—

Methodism in Louisiana

EDITED BY

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BULLETIN OF CENTENARY COLLEGE OF LOUISIANA
SHREVEPORT

M. W. DRAKE, C.

CENTENARY COLLEGE

A series of bulletins is being issued dealing with the contribution of Centenary College of Louisiana, located at Shreveport, to the social and civic life of the State, the nation and the world. This, the first of the series, presents the religious phase of this contribution. Similar publications will be issued from time to time. Those who wish the entire series may obtain them by addressing

President's Office,
Centenary College of Louisiana,
Shreveport, La.

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CENTENARY COLLEGE AND METHODISM IN LOUISIANA

Centenary College of Louisiana, located at Shreveport, is a lasting monument to a consecrated idea born in the minds of a few devoted itinerant Methodist preachers over eighty years ago in Clinton, Mississippi, where its parent institution, Mississippi College, was located. The College has many times repaid its founders and others who have through the years sacrificed for it, by the consecrated men it has produced and sent into the active work of the Methodist Church.

The names of the ministers identified with the life and works of this institution are woven closely into the history of Methodism in the South. These men, together with those who are products of the College, have wielded much influence in the moral and religious life of Louisiana and the South. Prominent Church men of the early days took an active interest in the College. Bishop John C. Keener gave the best years of his life to the development of Centenary. For fifty-four years he was a member of the Board of Trustees, and many times he made great personal sacrifices that the College might live. Bishops H. N. McTyeire and Charles B. Galloway took much interest in the College and used their influence for the upbuilding of the College and on occasions visited the institution. The work and prayer of these great men of the church, combined with that of all the ministers of the time, meant life for the College.

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A GREAT COLLEGE

This College, throughout her long period of service has developed and sent into the affairs of the church, state and nation, men who have served ably in their respective fields. This stream of well-educated, christian leaders is now flowing stronger than ever. The graduating classes are on the increase and men are going into the fields of law, medicine, business, education and agriculture, as well as the ministry, and their influence is being felt in a big way.

Centenary asks support because it produces men who build our civilization and maintain in it, schools, churches and other stabilizing influences. Its record, which covers many years, will be briefly reviewed in order to show just what its contribution has been in this regard. In this first bulletin its contribution in the all-important field of religion will be considered. Other bulletins will be issued from time to time, dealing with Centenary's contribution to the field of law, education, business and agriculture.

THE EARLY PERIOD

Little information can be obtained concerning the alumni of the College of Louisiana, which institution was bought by Centenary in 1845, nor concerning the Centenary alumni up to 1850. It is a recognized fact, however, that throughout this early period, Centenary gave to Louisiana and Mississippi Methodism, numbers of students who became the pioneers in the spread of Methodism in these states.

The spirit of perseverance which characterized the men in charge of the affairs of the College was burned deep into the hearts and minds of the students of the time and they carried this indomitable spirit into the ranks of Methodism. This same spirit still lives in the heart of Centenary College and she is endeavoring to send into all walks of life men and women who have the one great aim of service to their fellowmen.

TWO DISTINGUISHED PREACHERS

Rev. C. G. Andrews graduated from Centenary College in 1850. He entered the active work in the ministry soon after finishing. He was early recognized as a great preacher and organizer and during his ministry he held many important charges. He was sent as a delegate to

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the General Conference several times and served his church well in that capacity. In 1871 he assumed the presidency of Centenary College. The minutes of the Board of Trustees show that during his administration, the College made rapid progress. From a student body of less than forty, he built up the attendance to over one hundred. He resigned in 1882 and returned to the ministry where he continued to serve in a large way. In 1881 he was sent to the Ecumenical Conference held in London and to the same Conference held at Washington in 1891.

The noted contemporary of Dr. Andrews, Dr. Charles W. Carter, considered by many the greatest preacher of this Conference, graduated from Centenary in 1855. He won much distinction in the pulpit and a very dear place in the hearts of his people. Like Dr. Andrews he too, was elected to the presidency of his Alma Mater, and served ably from 1894 to 1898. During his administration the endowment reached $81,000 and up to the time of the yellow fever epidemic, the student enrollment was on the increase. In 1898, he resigned and returned to the ministry. His service as president of Centenary College will always stand out as a most notable achievement of this great man. Dr. Carter was for more than a decade editor of the New Orleans Christian Advocate.

A number of other men graduated from Centenary during this period who were quite notable in the Louisiana and Mississippi Conferences. Among them were Rev. B. M. Drake, who was also President of the College, T. C. Bradford and R. D. Norsworthy of the Mississippi Conference, Rev. A. M. Wailes and many others of the Louisiana Conference.

FOUR PRESIDING ELDERS

Not only during its early history did Centenary give men to the church, but a study of the personnel of the present Conference reveals the fact that the men who are typing the religious life and thought of Louisiana Methodism today, are Centenary products. Of the seven presiding elders in the Louisiana Conference at the present time, four are graduates of Centenary.

Dr. R. H. Wynn of the Class of '89, noted minister and former president of Centenary, is presiding elder of the Shreveport district and stands high in the councils of his church. For many years he had been one of the most prominent ministers in the state and has filled a number of important charges. In 1914 he was called to the presidency of his Alma Mater. During the trying

years from 1914 to 1919 he served the College faithfully and it was largely through the efforts of Dr. Wynn and a few other men that the institution was saved for the cause of Christian Education. His service during these years to his church and state can hardly be over-estimated. Since his resignation from the presidency he has been actively engaged in the ministry. He has served for a number of years as a member of the Board of Trustees.

Dr. W. W. Drake, another alumnus of Centenary, is presiding elder of the New Orleans district. The name of Drake has long been connected with the College. Almost from its foundation, a member of this great old family has taken an active part in the development of the College. None have taken greater interest and pride in the College than Dr. Drake, the former pastor of Noel Memorial Church. For years he has served as a member of the Board of Trustees and his counsel in that body and his work for the institution will always be remembered as one of his greatest achievements. Dr. Drake has served in the ministry since 1892. He has been prominent for many years in church circles. As secretary of the Conference Board of Education, he showed himself to be an educational statesman and his influence along this line has meant much. He was instrumental with Dr. Wynn and others in bringing the College through a number of trying periods.

The presiding elder of the Monroe district, Rev. Wm. D. Kleinschmidt, graduated from Centenary in 1901. He has served a number of congregations and his work and influence for good have been felt by those with whom he has come in contact.

Rev. Wm. L. Doss, Jr., another graduate of the College, having behind him many years of efficient and faithful service in the pastorate, is now presiding elder and fills very ably his position in the Alexandria district.

THE CONFERENCE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

Rev. Albert S. Lutz, an alumnus of the College, graduated in the class of 1899. Dr. Lutz served a number of charges and was presiding elder for a number of years. His work as Secretary of the Conference Board of Education is probably his most outstanding achievement. His work in planning and directing the Christian Education Movement in Louisiana, to equip and endow the two Methodist institutions of higher learning in his state, put him into great prominence in this line of work.

TWO RELIGIOUS EDITORS AND TWO RELIGIOUS TEACHERS

That Centenary men are making their influence in the service of God felt throughout the land is proven by the fact that Rev. W. H. Nelson, a Centenary product is serving Methodism in California. He is editor of the Pacific Advocate.

Rev. H. T. Carley, who also for a short time came under the influence of the College and later was a member of its faculty, is now the editor of the New Orleans Christian Advocate. He was for many years a prominent minister of the Mississippi Conference.

Another Centenary man, Dr. Franklin N. Parker, is now serving as Dean of the Candler School of Theology in Emory University, and through him the influence of Centenary is being felt in many parts of the country.

Dr. H. W. Van Hook is also a prominent religious teacher, being at present the president of the Seashore Camp Ground at Biloxi, Mississippi. His achievements along with Dr. Parker's and other teachers, who are products of Centenary, will be reviewed in a later bulletin on Centenary's contribution to education.

PROMINENT MINISTERS

The man who probably had more to do than any other with the moving of Centenary to Shreveport, is a product of Centenary College. Rev. Briscoe Carter who is now serving as Financial Secretary of the Louisiana Orphanage, a Methodist Institution, after five years of untiring efforts, succeeded in getting the College moved to Shreveport in 1908. The fact, that the College has in the last few years made such marked progress, vindicates Dr. Carter's judgment. His success in this undertaking will long be remembered in the history of this institution. The Church and the state owe much to Brother Carter and Dr. Boggs, who was also instrumental in getting the College to Shreveport, for their far-sighted work. He has filled important appointments in the Louisiana Conference and is a worthy son of his distinguished father, Dr. Charles W. Carter. He is a member of the Board of Trustees and still contributes his excellent counsel in the affairs of the College.

Rev. R. H. Harper, another alumnus, is pastor of the First Methodist Church in New Orleans. He is also Secretary of the Conference, a position which he fills with

ability. He has held a number of important charges. He is considered one of the greatest preachers in the Conference.

Rev. C. C. Miller, pastor of Keener Memorial Church in Baton Rouge, is a graduate of Centenary. He was president of Centenary for a number of years while the institution was located at Jackson. His services for the Church and the College are notable.

Rev. C. E. Crisler, of the First Methodist Church in Baton Rouge, is a worthy son of his Alma Mater and is living up to the reputation of Centenary Alumni, by his excellent service to the Church.

The following former Centenary students are serving in the Louisiana Conference at the places mentioned: H. T. Young, DeRidder; J. M. Boykin at Ponchatoula; C. H. Mayo at Neame; A. A. Bernard at Gueydan; Ben H. Andrews at Zachary; H. S. Johns, Chaplain State Penitentiary at Baton Rouge; A. D. George at Bunkie; O. O. Tucker at Castor; S. S. Bogan at Gibsland; W. H. Young at Eros; J. S. Rutledge at Olive Branch; H. W. Cudd at Waterproof; T. J. McCoy at Houma; J. L. Cay at Baker; N. E. Joyner at Ruston; T. J. Holladay at Pelican; A. V. Duplantis at Ville Platte; D. B. Boddie at Glenmora; Leland Clegg at Logansport; C. E. McLean at Baton Rouge; Charles D. Atkinson at Alexandria. This list is not complete as information about all the pastors could not be had. It is true that over twenty-five per cent of the ministers in the active work of the Louisiana Conference, are products of Centenary College. The men the College has produced and sent into Methodism throughout her history run into the hundreds.

A PROUD RECORD

With such a record as this, may not Centenary College be justly proud of these men who have gone from its halls to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the World? The richest fruit of any College is its alumni. Centenary asks nothing more than that the people's judgment be made on the basis of the men it has made and equipped to serve.

Five of its own presidents, two of Louisiana's greatest preachers, numbers of presiding elders, including four of the seven now serving important districts, the Conference Secretary of Education, three editors of religious papers, the dean of a great theological school, the president of a religious training camp, numerous religious

teachers, the financial secretary of a church orphanage, and hundreds of prominent ministers—Centenary College produced them all.

To all people who believe that the supreme task of a man is human service and that of a College the production of trained servants; who realize that an investment in a Christian College pays dividends through the ages in Christian leaders—to these Centenary College of Louisiana presents its record in the field of religion and asks to be judged by it.